



South Carolina State Agencies & Colleges/Universities
RECYCLING & BUYING RECYCLED
Annual Report • Fiscal Year 2021

Prepared for **Gov. Henry McMaster**
and the **Members of the S.C. Legislature**



Prepared by the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's
Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling

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Introduction

The S.C. Solid Waste Policy and Management Act of 1991 (Act) – S.C. Laws § 44-96-140 – requires state agencies and state-supported colleges/universities to:

- **Provide recycling programs to collect material** including aluminum, cardboard, glass, lead-acid batteries, paper, plastic, tires and used motor oil;
- **Make modifications to programs** to ensure material is recycled to the maximum extent possible; and
- **Report the type and amount of material recycled as well as all products purchased containing recycled-content material** each year to the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC). The Act [Section 44-96-140 (E)] also sets a goal that at least 25 percent of all product purchases contain recycled-content material.

DHEC is required to report this information to the Governor and General Assembly by November 1 of each year. This report reflects recycling and buying recycled activities for fiscal year (FY) 2021 (July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021). Data for this report is submitted directly from state agencies and colleges/universities as well as from vendors providing recycling services. Both public and private colleges/universities are included in this report although only state-supported institutions are required by the Act to provide information. In FY21, 42 state agencies, two state agency complexes (collectively 27 agencies) and 28 colleges/universities reported.

COVID-19 continued to present significant challenges to recycling in FY21. South Carolina's collegiate and government employees stepped up, recycling 23,315.24 tons of material – an almost 70 percent increase from FY20. It should be noted that this increase was weighted by the recycling of construction and demolition (C&D) debris by South Carolina State University as a result of on-going renovations of multiple buildings. As COVID-19 continues to change the work environment and daily operations for state agencies and college/university campuses, those agencies and collegiate institutions that maintain their recycling programs and report should be commended. They continue to lead by demonstrating that recycling is the standard in South Carolina. DHEC stands by for training and technical assistance now more than ever.

The percentage of state purchases that contain recycled material cannot be determined because no statewide system to track those purchases exists. Still, 45 percent of reporting state agencies and 71 percent of reporting colleges/universities confirmed purchasing recycled-content products during FY21. The recycled-content products purchased most frequently by those reporting were office paper, bathroom paper products and inkjet/toner cartridges.

FY20 & FY21 Comparison for State Agencies

FY20		FY21	
MATERIAL	TONNAGE	MATERIAL	TONNAGE
Banned Items	364.58	Banned Items	577.28
Commingled Recyclables	131.58	Commingled Recyclables	127.10
Glass (containers)	6.52	Glass (containers)	9.21
Metal	936.88	Metal	764.14
Organics	0.09	Organics	3.45
Paper	1,264.96	Paper	1,540.76
Plastic	56.72	Plastic	36.64
Miscellaneous Items	452.51	Miscellaneous Items	481.74
TOTAL	3,213.84	TOTAL	3,540.32

FY20 & FY21 Comparison for Colleges/Universities

FY20		FY21	
MATERIAL	TONNAGE	MATERIAL	TONNAGE
Banned Items	242.93	Banned Items	265.01
Commingled Recyclables	481.12	Commingled Recyclables	439.58
Glass (containers)	22.58	Glass (containers)	24.38
Metal	889.72	Metal	642.02
Organics	3,481.94	Organics	2,274.15
Paper	2,667.02	Paper	2,492.05
Plastic	80.09	Plastic	61.10
Miscellaneous Items	2,637.97	Miscellaneous Items	13,576.63
TOTAL	10,503.37	TOTAL	19,774.92

About this report

The "South Carolina State Agencies & Colleges/Universities Recycling & Buying Recycled Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2021" is submitted by DHEC in compliance with the Act – Section § 44-96-140 (C) – and is published by DHEC's Bureau of Land and Waste Management (BLWM), Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling. In addition, Act 119 of 2005 mandates that agencies provide all reports to the General Assembly in an electronic format. ***This report was published on November 1, 2021.***

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State Agencies

State agencies reported recycling 3,540.32 tons of material – an increase of about 10 percent from FY20. While this was unexpected given the impact of COVID-19 on South Carolina's recycling programs during the previous FY, it demonstrates the resilience and flexibility of our state agency employees.

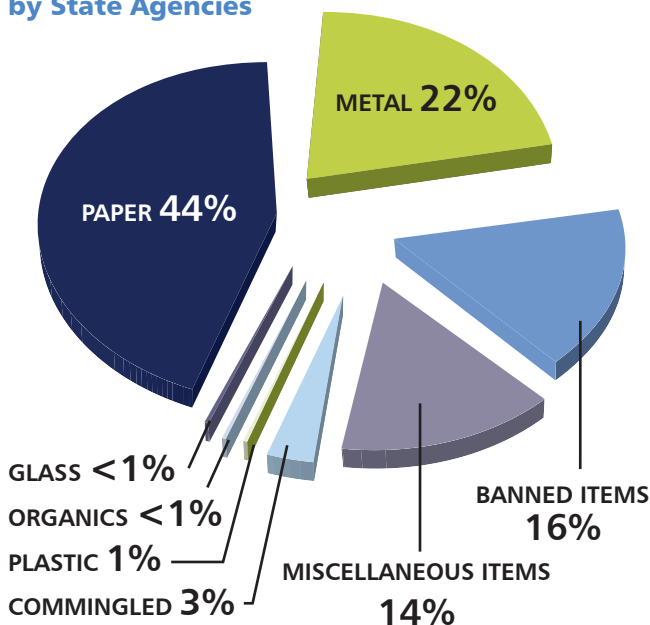
The S.C. Department of Corrections' (SCDC) recycling service primarily collects from state agency programs. For the safety of both staff and customers, SCDC paused hauling recyclables in March 2020, a stoppage that lasted for the duration of FY21. SCDC's facility still accepted and processed material dropped off during this period. Some agencies were not able to deliver material, so their programs were put on hold. At the same time, some took on the extra duties of collecting and transporting recycling to ensure the continuation of their operations.

Material with significant increases in FY21 included:

- **Other/mixed paper** – from 216.40 tons in FY20 to 657.67 tons;
- **Tires** – from 104 tons in FY20 to 375.94 tons; and
- **Other/mixed metal** – from 114.11 tons in FY20 to 205.51 tons.

Forty-two individual state agencies reported in FY21 compared to 54 in FY20. Due to the housing of state agencies within multi-office buildings and complexes, those located within the Capitol Complex (State House grounds) and the Capitol Center (1201 Main Street) are reported under those facilities. State agencies within these structures that independently reported are listed as individual agencies.

CHART 2: Percentage of Recyclables Collected by State Agencies



NOTE: Totals do not equal 100 percent due to rounding.

TABLE 1: Commodities Recycled in Tons by State Agencies in FY21

COMMODITIES RECYCLED		AMOUNT
Banned Items	Appliances	1.61
	Electronics	12.06
	Lead-acid batteries	3.58
	Tires	375.94
	Used motor oil	184.09
TOTAL BANNED ITEMS		577.28
Commingled Recyclables	May include: cardboard, paper, glass bottles, plastic, aluminum & steel cans	127.10
TOTAL COMMINGLED RECYCLABLES		127.10
Glass (containers)	Brown	2.74
	Clear	2.18
	Green	0.70
	Other/mixed glass	3.59
TOTAL GLASS		9.21
Metal	Aluminum	90.10
	Ferrous metals	384.59
	Steel cans	83.94
	Other/mixed metal	205.51
TOTAL METAL		764.14
Organics	Yard trimmings (composted)	0.50
	Yard trimmings (mulched)	1.24
	Yard trimmings (boiler fuel)	1.71
TOTAL ORGANICS		3.45
	Cardboard	553.06
	Magazines	1.06
	Newspapers & inserts	0.24
	Office paper	327.56
	Paperboard	1.17
	Other/mixed paper	657.67
TOTAL PAPER		1,540.76
Plastic	HDPE	1.76
	PET	4.95
	Other/mixed plastic	29.93
TOTAL PLASTIC		36.64
Miscellaneous Items	Antifreeze	10.14
	Carpet & carpet padding	1.31
	Clothing/textiles	0.01
	C&D debris	127.71
	Cooking oil	4.00
	Fluorescent bulbs	2.18
	Inkjet/toner cartridges	2.40
	Paint (oil or latex)	0.94
	Rechargeable batteries	0.31
	Used oil filters	7.79
	Wood*	280.56
	Other**	44.39
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS		481.74
TOTAL FOR ALL		3,540.32

* Wood includes furniture, cabinets & pallets

** Other includes alkaline batteries, non-hazardous sludge & oil absorbents

Colleges/Universities

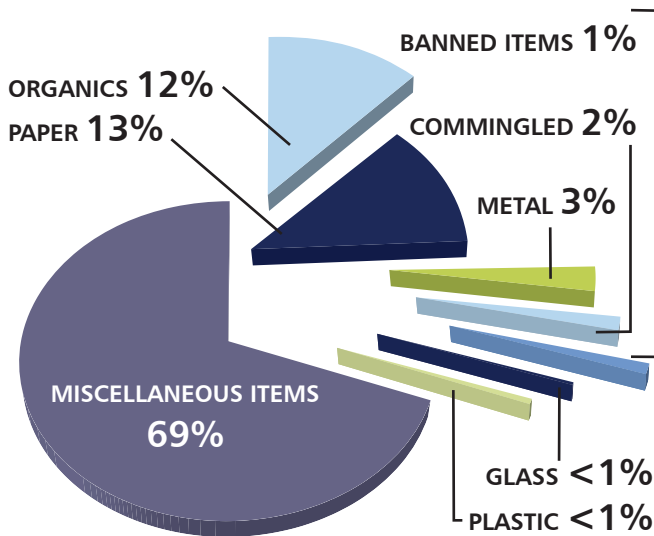
During FY21, colleges/universities began to allow students and staff back on campus following the State of Emergency issued by the Governor in response to COVID-19. This resulted in the reported recycling of 19,774.92 tons of material – an 88 percent increase from the 10,503.37 reported in FY20. At the same time, some material that is typically recycled decreased this year from a lack of generation due to lower in-person attendance on campuses.

An increase in cardboard recycling is due to an evolving understanding of COVID and its low likelihood of spreading via surfaces. Meanwhile, a decrease in organics recycling is due to fewer students eating on campus as well as a decline in groundskeeping activities during part of the FY.

Significant changes in FY21 recycling included:

- An increase of C&D debris from 2,278.29 tons in FY20 to 13,279.67 tons;
- An increase of cardboard from 1,290.87 tons in FY20 to 1,572.07 tons; and
- A decrease in organics from 3,481.94 tons in FY20 to 2,274.15 tons.

CHART 4: Percentage of Recyclables Collected by Colleges/Universities



NOTE: Totals do not equal 100 percent due to rounding.

TABLE 3: Commodities Recycled in Tons by State Colleges and Universities in FY21

COMMODITIES RECYCLED		AMOUNT
Banned Items	Appliances	0.70
	Electronics	200.73
	Lead-acid batteries	34.92
	Tires	8.77
	Used motor oil	19.89
TOTAL BANNED ITEMS		265.01
Commingled Recyclables	May include: cardboard, paper, glass bottles, plastic, aluminum & steel cans	439.58
TOTAL COMMINGLED RECYCLABLES		439.58
Glass (containers)	Other/mixed glass	24.38
TOTAL GLASS		24.38
Metal	Aluminum	15.68
	Ferrous metals	484.75
	Steel cans	0.05
	Other/mixed metal	141.54
TOTAL METAL		642.02
Organics	Food waste (composted)	753.30
	Yard trimmings (composted)	1,207.02
	Yard trimmings (mulched)	313.83
TOTAL ORGANICS		2,274.15
	Cardboard	1,572.07
	Magazines	5.95
	Newspapers & inserts	0.20
	Office paper	334.15
	Other/mixed paper	579.68
TOTAL PAPER		2,492.05
Plastic	HDPE	4.76
	PET	2.86
	Other/mixed plastic	53.48
TOTAL PLASTIC		61.10
Miscellaneous Items	Antifreeze	3.35
	Carpet	3.00
	Carpet padding	0.30
	Clothing/textiles	1.92
	C&D debris	13,279.67
	Cooking oil	61.83
	Fluorescent bulbs	34.62
	Inkjet/toner cartridges	12.32
	Mattresses/box springs	3.33
	Paint (oil or latex)	21.60
	Rechargeable batteries	1.48
	Used oil filters	1.41
	Wood*	146.39
	Other**	5.41
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS		13,576.63
TOTAL FOR ALL		19,774.92

* Wood includes furniture, cabinets & pallets

** Other includes alkaline batteries, non-hazardous sludge & oil absorbents

Santee Cooper

The recycling activities of Santee Cooper, a state-owned electric utility, are separated from traditional state agency reporting. This is done due to the significant differences between Santee Cooper's recycling and that of other state agencies. This separation provides a more realistic picture of the recycling of traditional state agencies.

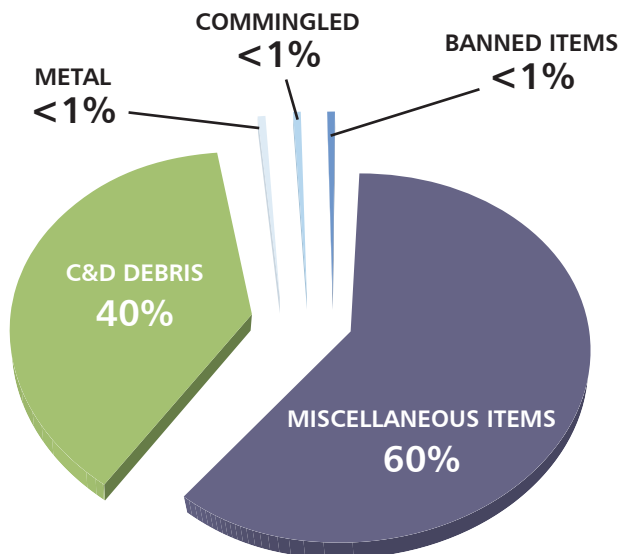
Santee Cooper recycled 1,676,332.25 tons of material in FY21 compared to 1,698,048.29 tons in FY20, reflecting a 1 percent decrease. Material with significant decreases in FY21 included:

- **Used motor oil** – from 263.64 tons in FY20 to 99.94 tons; and
- **Other material (including bottom ash, fly ash and pond ash)** – from 1,045,711.78 tons in FY20 to 1,004,590.15 tons.

The No. 1 material recovered by the state-owned utility was bottom ash/pond ash/fly ash which comprised 1,004,590.15 tons or 59.93 percent of its recycled materials.



CHART 6: Percentage of Recyclables Collected by Santee Cooper



NOTE: Totals do not equal 100 percent due to rounding.

TABLE 5: Commodities Recycled in Tons by Santee Cooper in FY21

COMMODITIES RECYCLED		AMOUNT
Banned Items	Electronics	15.12
	Lead-acid batteries	3.13
	Tires	7.08
	Used motor oil	99.94
TOTAL BANNED ITEMS		125.27
Commingled Recyclables	Includes: aluminum cans, cardboard, paper and plastic bottles	22.89
TOTAL PAPER		22.89
Metal	Ferrous metals	3,822.27
	Other/mixed metal	142.76
TOTAL METAL		3,965.04
Miscellaneous Items	Mixed wood*	513.65
	Fluorescent tubes	0.81
	Rechargeable batteries	5.70
	Used oil filters	0.65
	Other**	1,004,590.15
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS		1,005,110.95
Construction & Demolition (C&D) Debris	Gypsum drywall	667,108.10
TOTAL C&D DEBRIS		667,108.10
TOTAL FOR ALL		1,676,332.25

* Wood includes furniture, cabinets, pallets & mixed wood

** Other includes bottom ash, fly ash & pond ash

Recycling Services Offered

SCDC collects recyclables from state agencies, colleges/universities and K-12 schools in the Midlands area. Participants see a significant reduction in the amount of material going to the landfill and may be able to reduce disposal costs.

There is a fee for this service, and participating programs need to provide their own recycling containers.

For more information, call (803) 896-2364.



Colleges/Universities Reporting for FY21

- Aiken Technical College
- Charleston Southern University
- Clemson University
- Coastal Carolina University
- College of Charleston
- Florence-Darlington Technical College
- Francis Marion University
- Greenville Technical College
- Horry-Georgetown Technical College
- Medical University of South Carolina
- Northeastern Technical College
- Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College
- Piedmont Technical College
- Presbyterian College
- South Carolina State University
- Southern Wesleyan University
- Spartanburg Community College
- Technical College of the Lowcountry
- The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina
- University of South Carolina (UofSC)
- UofSC Aiken
- UofSC Beaufort
- UofSC Lancaster
- UofSC Upstate
- Williamsburg Technical College
- Winthrop University
- Wofford College
- York Technical College

State Agencies Reporting for FY21

- Commission for the Blind
- Commission on Higher Education
- Commission on Indigent Defense
- Comptroller General's Office

- Criminal Justice Academy
- Department of Administration
- Department of Consumer Affairs
- Department of Corrections
- Department of Education
- Department of Employment and Workforce
- Department of Health and Environmental Control
- Department of Juvenile Justice
- Department of Mental Health
- Department of Motor Vehicles
- Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism
- Department of Public Safety
- Department of Revenue
- Department of Social Services
- Department of Transportation
- Education Lottery
- Emergency Management Division
- Forestry Commission
- Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission
- Human Affairs Commission
- Legislative Audit Council
- Office of the Adjutant General
- Office of the State Auditor
- Patriots Point Development Authority
- Public Employee Benefit Authority (PEBA)
- Public Service Commission of South Carolina
- SCETV
- School for the Deaf and the Blind
- Sea Grant Consortium
- Secretary of State
- State Ethics Commission
- State Law Enforcement Division (SLED)
- State Library
- State Museum
- State Supreme Court
- Surplus Property (Department of Administration)

- Technical College System
- Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School
- Workers' Compensation Commission

* The following state agencies are located within the Capitol Complex.

- Administrative Law Court
- Board of Financial Institutions
- Commission on Prosecution Coordination
- Commissioner of Banking
- Department of Administration
- Department of Children's Advocacy
- Department of Public Safety – Bureau of Protective Services
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Education Oversight Committee
- House of Representatives
- Judicial Department
- Legislative Services Agency
- Office of the Attorney General
- Office of the Governor
- Office of the Lieutenant Governor
- Office of the State Treasurer
- Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office
- State Board of Financial Institutions
- State Procurement Review Panel
- State Senate

** The following state agencies are located within the Capitol Center.

- Department of Commerce
- Department of Insurance
- Jobs-Economic Development Authority
- Retirement System Investment Commission
- Rural Infrastructure Authority
- S.C. Conservation Bank
- State Fiscal Accountability Authority

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RecycleU

RecycleU is a comprehensive program that provides technical assistance, best management practices, and outreach material as well as a certification program for recycling professionals to South Carolina colleges/universities in order to improve waste reduction, recycling and composting programs on campus. Please visit scdhec.gov/recycleu for details.



Green Government Initiative

DHEC's Green Government Initiative (GGI) assists state agencies in meeting their recycling requirements, bringing South Carolina closer to its recycling goals. GGI encourages agencies to lead by example through:

- Reducing their environmental footprints (which can also save money);
- Buying recycled-content products; and
- Supporting South Carolina's recycling industry.

Visit scdhec.gov/recycle or call 1-800-768-7348 to learn more.

